

February Third

20-----04

The regular February Meeting of Council was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Ruby B. Archie, P. A. “Pete” Castiglione, Jr., E. Stokes Daniels, Jr., Mayor John C. Hamlin, T. David Luther (arrived at 7:05 P.M.), Albert K. “Buddy” Rawley, Jr., Sherman M. Saunders, H. Phillip Smith, and Vice-Mayor R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (9).

Staff members present were City Manager Jerry L. Gwaltney, Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joseph C. King, Interim City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., Finance Director Aubrey D. Dodson, and Clerk of the Council Annette Y. Crane, CMC.

Other Staff members present were Economic Development Director Ron Bunch, and Human Services Director Gwendolyn Edwards.

Mayor Hamlin presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Mayor Williams introduced Schoolfield Academy Principal Suzanne Jones, who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Hamlin recognized Project Access Executive Director Kay Crane. Ms. Crane had distributed the 2003 Project Access Annual Report to Council Members and staff. She reviewed Project Access from its initial stages as follows: The program is a non-profit organization that coordinates primary and specialty healthcare for the uninsured residents of Danville and Pittsylvania County. A study conducted by the Danville Regional Health System in 1996 concluded that approximately 21% of the population in the City and County had no health insurance. A taskforce composed of physicians, healthcare professionals and concerned citizens gathered to find a solution. Following visits to other communities to see how the problem was being addressed, the taskforce grew into a full Board of Directors made up of representatives from the City, County, human service agencies and concerned area citizens. In April 2001, an executive director was hired. Client enrollment began in July 2001.

Ms. Crane continued that the program is “physician driven” since the services offered are solely dependant on the participation of area physicians. She reported that area physicians have donated \$1,106,245 in medical services. Commonwealth Pharmacy has provided countless staff hours to facilitate the Pharmacy Connection program by receiving Project Access clients’ prescribed

medications and disbursement. Danville Regional Medical Health System has donated over \$1,000,000 in outpatient services, physical therapy, radiology, and lab testing.

Because of the services provided by healthcare professionals, Danville Regional Health System reported an across-the-board drop in charity care, which includes services provided to Project Access clients.

The program also offers medication assistance through the Southside Medication Assistance Program.

Mayor Hamlin thanked Ms. Crane for her presentation and commended the Board of Directors for the excellent services provided to the area's uninsured. He expressed his appreciation to Vice-Mayor Wayne Williams, a Danville physician who participates in the program, and the staff of Project Access for all their hard work.

Dr. Williams said Project Access is conducted in a very coordinated and controlled fashion, which eliminated abuse of the system. Program efficiency allows 97% of area physicians to participate.

Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Executive Director Daryl Dalton reported on the progress of HOPE VI. Mr. Dalton reported that Phase I, which consists of forty-two (42) units, is well underway. The first of the units will come on line in April and the remainder finished in September. Construction on Phase II will also commence this year. Mr. Dalton said \$2.3 Million tax credits have been received and additional tax credits will be applied for this year. An "Old Towne" Zoning District designation will help to facilitate the application.

As far as relocation, Mr. Dalton said there continued to be thirty (30) families living in the Liberty View community. As soon as Phase I is completed, these individuals will be moving into the new units. When this is accomplished, old Liberty View units will be torn down to make room for Phase II units. He said progress had been made on property acquisitions. There were originally one hundred forty (140) properties in the plan to be acquired, but that number was scaled back. One hundred four (104) properties are ready for acquisition. Eighty-six (86) are under the Authority's control presently, fifty-eight (58) have been purchased, and two (2) are under contract waiting to close. Twenty-six (26) are mostly vacant lots under condemnation and no dwellings were acquired through Imminent Domain proceedings.

Mr. Dalton reported that thirty-four (34) individuals have completed home ownership training. Fourteen (14) are ready to occupy lease-purchase units. Five (5) families are ready to purchase a home now. He advised the Authority has had great success in job placement for these families.

Twenty (20) local companies and one hundred twenty (120) employees are being utilized to construct the new units. Eleven (11) companies are minority-owned and 68% of the employees are minorities.

Mr. Dalton said that on the average it takes approximately five (5) years from the time the grant funds are issued to for the first home to be completed and someone moves in. It is anticipated that the first occupant will take possession in May or June 2004, which is just under four years of the national average.

Council Member Rawley encouraged Council Members to visit Liberty View and praised Mr. Dalton and his staff for the tireless efforts expended to bring this project to fruition. Mr. Rawley also commended residents of the Liberty View community for their willingness to undergo the big adjustments necessary for homeownership.

Council Member Saunders expressed his appreciation to Mr. Dalton and City staff and said he was happy that eminent domain proceedings were unnecessary.

Mayor Hamlin thanked Mr. Dalton and encouraged him to keep up the good work.

MINUTES

- Upon Motion by Council Member Daniels and second by Council Member Rawley, Minutes of the January 20, 2004 Council Meeting were approved as presented. Draft copies had been submitted to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-2004-RCATT FUNDS

- Council Member Castiglione advised that he was an employee of Danville Community College and would abstain from voting since his participation might be construed as a conflict of interest.

Upon Motion by Council Member Archie and second by Council Member Saunders, Ordinance No. 2004-01.03 presented by its First Reading on January 20, 2004 amending the 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by authorizing a transfer from the Unappropriated Fund Balance to provide funds for the support of the Regional Center for Applied Technology and Training in the amount of \$75,000 was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE:	8-0
AYE:	Archie, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8).
NAY:	None (0).

ABSTAIN: Castiglione (1).

APPOINT JOE KING TO ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

– Vice-Mayor Williams moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-02.01

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOSEPH C. KING AS A MEMBER OF THE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Rawley and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0

AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (9).

NAY: None (0).

GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS – SERIES OF 2004A

– Council Member Smith moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-02.02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES OF 2004A, IN A MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,000,000, OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, DETAILS AND PAYMENT THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF CERTAIN GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS OF THE CITY.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Luther and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0

AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (9).

NAY: None (0).

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECTS

– Vice-Mayor Williams moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-02.03

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMISSION OF COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR MAINTAINING DANVILLE'S STATUS AS A REDEVELOPMENT AREA UNDER THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

BUDGET AMENDMENT-FY 2003-04-TRANSFER \$350,000 TO IDA

- Upon Motion by Council Member Daniels and second by Council Member Rawley, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2004-02.01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING CERTAIN REVENUES AND APPROPRIATING SAME FOR A TRANSFER TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000

was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

COMMUNICATIONS

- City Manager Gwaltney asked Council Members to mark their calendars for Thursday, February 26, 2004 for a Meeting with the Danville-Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Gwaltney said a recognition dinner is planned for members of the City's Boards and Commissions and would be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at the Stratford Inn Conference Center.

Mr. Gwaltney called attention to the Quarterly Financial Report that had been placed at the desk of each Council Member. He said the City was in good financial shape.

There were no communications from the Interim City Attorney and City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Archie complimented Human Services Director Gwendolyn Edwards for the excellent employee newsletter. Mrs. Archie felt the recent Dinner Meeting with the Board of Supervisors was productive and said she looked forward to continued joint efforts with the Pittsylvania County governing body.

Mrs. Archie congratulated Mr. Saunders and Mr. Luther, who recently announced they would offer for re-election during the Councilmanic election to be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2004.

Council Member Castiglione advised that charity is in full swing among Danville's citizens in spite of the City's unemployment rate. Mr. Castiglione said Danville was a community that takes care of its own. The March of Dimes Telethon was held on Sunday, January 25 and donations exceeded all expectations. There had also been a fund-raiser for the Free Clinic that was very successful.

Council Member Daniels commended City employees for being on the job last week in spite of the snow and ice storm. Mr. Daniels said a community that takes care of its people would grow in many ways.

Council Member Rawley commended the 48 firefighters who had perfect attendance. The figure represents 39% of the total department. He thanked the Danville Public Library staff for the work they do with children.

Council Member Saunders reported the meeting with the Board of Supervisors was a great one. Mr. Saunders encouraged anyone, who had recently lost a job and was interested in starting a small business, to visit or call (434-793-9100) the Dan River Business Development Center. Mr. Saunders said to pray for those who had lost their jobs. It was announced on Monday that Masonite, located in Danville, would be closing in March and approximately 170 workers would be out of a job.

Council Member Smith praised the efforts of Project Access and thanked the people in the community. Mr. Smith said the City should think about the Homeless Shelter when CDBG funds are discussed in the spring.

Vice-Mayor Williams said Council had a great meeting with Pittsylvania County and that the City needed to reinvent Danville from the ground up. He thanked Mr. Luther and Mr. Saunders

for offering for City Council and said teamwork had brought about the Institute and the Industrial Park and that teamwork needed to continue.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

MAYOR

CLERK